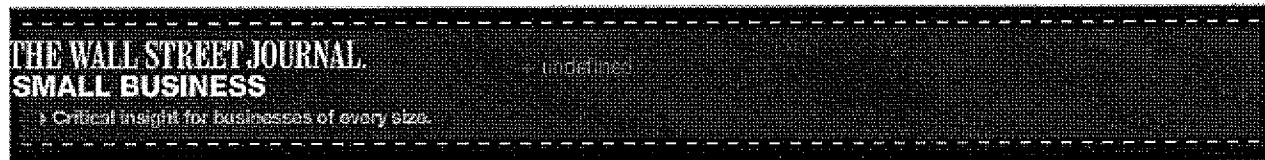


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**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
WSJ.com

BUSINESS | JUNE 8, 2009, 8:58 A.M. ET

## McDonald's Sales Rise 5.1%, Led by Demand Outside the U.S.

By TESS STYNES

McDonald's Corp.'s sales rose 5.1% last month as the fast-food chain continued to attract consumers amid the global recession and rising unemployment.

The fast-food chain has been a bright in the otherwise weak restaurant industry, as the battle for consumers intensifies. McDonald's has been outpacing U.S. fast-food rivals such as Burger King Holdings Inc. and Wendy's/Arby's Group Inc.

McDonald's global sales increase was tempered by a 2.8% rise in the U.S. The company said gains were held back by last year's introduction of the Southern Style Chicken Biscuit and Sandwich, though this year's results were aided by the introduction of new McCafe coffee beverages.

McDonald's expansive line of coffee beverages compete with Starbucks Corp. and other coffee shops. McDonald's said last month that the early coffee sales had exceeded expectations. McCafes are planned for Europe as well.

Overseas increases outpaced gains seen earlier this year, with Europe sales rising 7.6%. The U.S. growth, though, was less than earlier in the year.

For the second quarter, McDonald's said currency changes will reduce earnings by eight cents to nine cents a share. That will be partially offset by two cents to three cents in gains related to an Indonesia licensing transaction and the sale of Redbox Automated Retail LLC. The company plans to release second-quarter results July 23.

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